

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 W

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R 171122Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 6655

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, LI

SUBJECT: PORT OF MONROVIA AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 210528

1. QUOTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF A NOTE FROM THE GOL FOREIGN
MINISTRY DATED SEPTEMBER 15 RECEIVED HERE TODAY IN RESPONSE TO
EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE WORKING DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT
CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA PRESENTS
ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE WORKING DRAFT OF THE MONROVIA PORT
AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE EMBASSY ON AUGUST 30, 1976. THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WISHES TO ADVISE THAT THE TEXT OF THE WORKING
DRAFT ABOVE REFERRED TO CONFORMS TO THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA REGARDING A CHANGE OF THE EXISTING
MONROVIA PORT AGREEMENT TO ONE WHICH WOULD DIRECTLY INVOLVE
THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA IN THE DECISIONS FOR THE USE OF FUNDS
UNDER THE LEND ARRANGEMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PPORT OF MONROVIA.
THE TEXT ALSO CONFORMS TO THAT SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
LIBERIA TO SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, DURING HIS
APRIL VISIT.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WISHES TO ADVISE, THEREFORE,
THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA ACCEPTS THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED
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BY THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES AS A WORKING DRAFT OF THE

MONROVIA PORT AGREEMENT. IT IS PROPOSED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DETAILS ON THE CONTROLS OVER THE TRUST ACCOUNT, PROPERTY AND ASSETS, CUSTOMARY IMMUNITIES AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT BE NEGOTIATED LATER. END TEXT

3. GOL RESPONSE IS REFLECTIVE OF INITIAL ORAL REACTION EMBASSY RECEIVED WHEN SUBJECT FIRST BROACHED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS. AT THAT TIME HE SAID THAT REACTION WAS THAT THE "ONLY PROBLEM IS THE ARRANGEMENT AS IT STANDS DOESN'T PROVIDE FOR A WAY TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THE LEGALITY OF THE PROJECTS." HE SAID HE DID NOT FEEL IT WAS APPROPRIATE THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE TO GIVE ITS APPROVAL TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE. DESPITE DENNIS' RESERVATIONS WE BELIEVE THAT SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL CONCURRENCE THE WAY IS NOW PAVED TO RESOLVE THIS LONG-STANDING ISSUE. HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONROV06655
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760352-0951
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760949/aaaabptt.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 210528
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORT OF MONROVIA AGREEMENT
TAGS: OEXC, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006